

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 18236 191845Z  
ACTION CU-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /019 W  
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R 191540Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5796  
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS MOSCOW 18236

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OEXC, UR, SCUL  
SUBJECT: EXHIBITION OF WORKS OF PAINTER NICHOLAS ROERICH

1. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION IN HIS OFFICE ON OTHER MATTERS, IVAN IVANOVICH BAYUL, DEPUTY CHIEF OF MINCULT'S DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ON DECEMBER 16 "INFORMALLY SUGGESTED" TO P&C COUNSELOR THAT USG COOPERATE WITH SOVIET GOVERNMENT IN ORGANIZING IN MOSCOW FOR SHOWING DURING 1980 OLYMPIC RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBIT OF WORKS OF PAINTER NICHOLAS ROERICH. ACCORDING TO BAYUL'S MOST ELABORATELY INDIRECT APPROACH, HE WAS INTERESTED IN COUNSELOR'S "ENTIRELY PERSONAL" VIEW OF PROSPECTS THAT USG WOULD HELP MINCULT BRING TO USSR REPRESENTATIVE PART OF COLLECTION OF NICHOLAS ROERICH MUSEUM (319 WEST 107TH STREET, NYC), TO BE JOINED IN MOSCOW WITH OTHER MATERIALS NOW IN SOVIET UNION. MINCULT HOPING DEVELOP EXHIBIT COVERING MANY ASPECTS ROERICH'S WORK, AS PAINTER, SCENOGRAPHER, ARCHAEOLOGIST, "EARLY ENVIRONMENTALIST."

2. STRESSING HIS VIEW WAS INDEED PERSONAL, COUNSLOR SUGGESTED THAT USG WOULD BE MORE LIKELY RESPOND FAVORABLY TO INVITATION PROVIDE EXHIBIT OF US ART FOR SHOWING AT SUCH A PROPITIOUS MOMENT AS OLYMPIC SUMMER OF 1980. NOTING THAT LOANS FROM PRIVATE COLLECTIONS, AS THE ROERICH MUSEUM, WERE DIFFICULT, MINCULT WAS ADVISED, EQUALLY INFORMALLY, THAT

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OCCASION OF FORTHCOMING VISIT OF DELEGATION OF MINISTERS OF CULTURE COULD PROVIDE OCCASION FOR DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE LOAN ARRANGEMENT WITH MUSEUM AUTHORITIES.

3. BAYUL ENDED CONVERSATION BY REITERATING THAT HE HAD "MERELY OVERHEARD" DISCUSSION OF PLANS FOR SUCH AN EXHIBIT AND THAT HIS APPROACH WAS "INFORMAL". COUNSELOR REITERATED

THAT HIS NEGATIVE VIEW WAS "PERSONAL", THAT AN OFFICIAL  
PAPER SUGGESTING A COLLABORATIVE EXHIBIT OF ROERICH  
MATERIALS WOULD BE GIVEN DUE ATTENTION AND A MORE OFFICIAL  
REPLY.

4. ASK WHETHER SOVEMBASSY HAS APPROACHED DEPARTMENT/USIA  
WITH REQUEST SIMILAR TO MINCULT'S.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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